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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to health care providers to establish or expand programs dedicated to promoting mental wellness among their health care workers, including contractors, on the front lines of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to health care providers to establish or expand programs dedicated to promoting mental wellness among their health care workers, including contractors, on the front lines of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Coronavirus Health
3 Care Worker Wellness Act of 2020”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) Health care workers on the front lines of
7 the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic experience extraor-
8 dinary levels of stress that may impact their imme-
9 diate and long-term wellbeing.

10 (2) Health care workers experienced high rates
11 of burnout and mental health disorders before the
12 SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

13 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

14 It is the sense of the Congress that—

15 (1) health care workers on the front lines of the
16 SARS-CoV-2 pandemic deserve access to resources
17 that promote mental wellness during the pandemic
18 and in its aftermath; and

19 (2) the Federal Government has an interest in
20 improving the overall mental health and professional
21 satisfaction of the Nation’s health care workforce.

22 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO PRO-**
23 **MOTE MENTAL WELLNESS AMONG THEIR**
24 **WORKERS.**

25 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
26 Human Services (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-

1 retary”), acting through the Director of the Agency for
2 Healthcare Research and Quality, in collaboration with
3 one or more national medical professional organizations,
4 shall award grants to health care providers to establish
5 or expand programs dedicated to promoting mental
6 wellness among their health care workers, including con-
7 tractors, on the front lines of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

8 (b) PROCESS.—

9 (1) APPLICATION AVAILABILITY.—Not later
10 than 30 days after the date of enactment of this
11 Act, the Secretary shall make available the applica-
12 tion form and announce the process for applying for
13 a grant under this section.

14 (2) APPLICATION SUBMISSION.—To seek a
15 grant under this section, an applicant shall submit
16 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such
17 manner, and containing such information and assur-
18 ances as the Secretary may require.

19 (3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Not later than
20 30 days after approving an application for a grant
21 under this section, the Secretary shall make the
22 grant funds available to the grantee.

23 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
24 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated

1 such sums as may be necessary for the period of fiscal
2 years 2021 and 2022.

3 **SEC. 5. COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON HEALTH CARE WORK-**
4 **ER MENTAL HEALTH AND BURNOUT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
6 Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Qual-
7 ity, in collaboration with one or more national medical pro-
8 fessional organizations, shall commission a comprehensive
9 study on health care worker mental health and burnout.

10 (b) FOCUS AREAS.—The study under subsection (a)
11 shall focus on identifying—

12 (1) the factors that contribute to poor mental
13 health and burnout among health care workers;

14 (2) the barriers to health care workers seeking
15 and accessing mental health treatment;

16 (3) the implications of poor mental health and
17 burnout among health care workers for the health
18 care system and patient outcomes;

19 (4) the best ways to prevent and address the
20 problems described in paragraphs (1) through (3);

21 (5) the impact of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic
22 on the mental health of health care workers and re-
23 lated preparedness strategies for future health emer-
24 gencies; and

1 (6) the efficacy of programs funded pursuant to
2 section 4.

3 (c) COMPLETION; REPORT.—The Secretary shall—

4 (1) ensure that the study commissioned under
5 subsection (a) is completed not later than the day
6 that is 1 year after the date of on which the Sec-
7 retary makes the final expenditure of funds for such
8 study; and

9 (2) submit a report to the Congress not later
10 than such day on the findings and conclusions of
11 such study, including recommendations for address-
12 ing health care worker mental health and burnout.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
14 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
15 such sums as may be necessary for the period of fiscal
16 years 2021 through 2025.